

1. An improved blade for a shovel, comprising:  
2 a scoop portion having a width, a length, and a leading edge; and  
a plurality of concave scallops on the leading edge.
2. The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein:  
2 the width of the scoop portion ranges between 6 and 24 inches; and  
the number of scallops ranges between 3 and 12.
3. The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein:  
2 the scallops include a curved portion having a radius between two points spaced  
apart by a distance 'd'; and  
4 the radius of each scallop, 'r,' is greater than  $d/2$ .
4. The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein:  
2 the scallops include a curved portion having a radius between two points spaced  
apart by a distance 'd'; and  
4 the radius of each scallop, 'r,' is substantially equal to 'd'.
5. The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein:  
2 the scallops include a curved portion having a radius between two points spaced  
apart by a distance 'd'; and  
4 the radius of each scallop, 'r,' is greater than 'd'.
6. The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scallops are substantially  
2 identical.
7. The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scoop portion is configured  
2 for snow shoveling.

- 2        8.        The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scoop portion includes  
stiffening ribs.
- 2        9.        The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scoop portion is configured  
for gardening.
- 2        10.       The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the scoop portion is configured  
for ice scraping.
- 2        11.       The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the leading edge is attached to  
the scoop portion.
- 2        12.       The improved shovel of claim 1, wherein the leading edge and scoop  
portion are constructed from dissimilar materials.